

## REMARKS

This application is a divisional application of Serial No. 09/653,653. In the parent application, the Examiner imposed a restriction requirement between apparatus claims 1 - 18 and method claims 19 - 23. In the parent application, Applicants elected to prosecute method claims 19 - 23. These claims have been allowed. By this divisional application, Applicants are pursuing apparatus claims 1 - 18.

Applicants have amended claim 1 to clarify antecedent basis. It is respectfully submitted that applicants have not changed the claim scope under the Festo decision by this Amendment because the Amendment is to merely correct an informality.

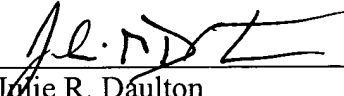
Applicants have included an Information Disclosure Statement herewith. The Examiner is requested to consider the art cited with respect to the pending claims.

Applicants respectfully request a speedy examination and a Notice of Allowance. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the below listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.  
P.O. Box 2903  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-0903  
(612) 332-5300

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Julie R. Daulton  
Reg. No. 36,414  
JRD:st

**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**

Claim 1 was amended as follows:

1. (Amended) A liquid filter construction comprising:
  - (a) a metal baffle plate having an inlet arrangement and an outlet arrangement;
    - (i) said metal baffle plate having an average cross-sectional thickness of at least 0.080 inch;
  - (b) a metal can having an interior and an average cross-sectional wall thickness different than that of said metal baffle plate thickness; said metal can average cross-sectional wall thickness being at least 0.008 inch;
    - (i) said metal can being secured to said [steel] metal baffle plate along a laser welded seam; and
  - (c) a filter element operably oriented within said interior of said metal can.

